



POLICY MEMO

Memo #: 2011-4-P Effective: Immediately

Date: 1/04/11

Subject: Peer Counselor Training

To: All Local WIC Directors and Local WIC Clinic Staff

From: Chris Furner, MS, CHES, Program Manager

- I. Training of the Breastfeeding Peer Counselors
 - a. All Peer Counselors hired into the Utah WIC Program must successfully complete training on the USDA's *Loving Support Through Peer Counseling Curriculum 2005* twelve modules within three months of hire date. The State Breastfeeding Coordinator will offer Peer Counselor training twice a year (March/September) depending on state schedule, available funds and participation (10 or more participants).
 - b. Peer Counselors may accomplish training by one of the following:
 - i. attending the state offered training
 - ii. attending local agency training
 - iii. reviewing the Loving Support through Peer Counseling curriculum of twelve modules as self paced lessons; this must be accomplished under the supervision of the Local Agency Breastfeeding Coordinator
 - c. This training process should start immediately at time of hire and Peer Counselors should be closely supervised by the Local Agency Breastfeeding Coordinator when performing Peer Counselor duties; i.e., counseling WIC participants.
 - d. It is the responsibility of the local agency to make requests for state training; i.e., when new Peer Counselors are hired.
 - e. The State Breastfeeding Coordinator may provide technical training assistance to ensure that the newly hired Peer Counselors complete this USDA training.